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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2186  
RHMFIUU/US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RULSJGA/COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//DCO-I//  
RUEANFA/NRC WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TBILISI 001721

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ISN/ECC - ACHURCH, JHARTSHORN AND LSPRINGER  
DEPT FOR EUR/ACE - DFROMAN  
CBP/INA FOR ESEYMOUR-REDD AND RORME  
USDOE/NNSA FOR TPERRY, EDESCHLER, AND RTALLEY  
COAST GUARD FOR SATAMAN, SHABTEMICHAEL, AND JCAIRL  
NRC FOR JRAMSEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KSTC](#) [KNNP](#) [GG](#)

SUBJECT: EXBS: GEORGIA MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2009

II. BROAD ITEMS OF INTEREST TO ADVISORS AND AGENCY MANAGERS:

Recent seizures made by the Georgian Coast Guard of vessels transiting waters adjacent to the breakaway region of Abkhazia have significantly increased tensions between Russia, the de facto Abkhaz government and the government of Georgia. See separate Embassy reporting on this topic.

II. COMPLETED ACTIONS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD.

AA. SITE ASSESSMENTS AND MEETINGS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

10 Aug: The EXBS Advisor (EA) traveled to Kazbegi to view the new port of entry with GBSLE, and spoke with Border Police (BP) Colonel Mindia Arabuli. Col. Arabuli commands the BP in an (85) kilometer section of the Russian green border encompassing three sectors. The terrain is mountainous and extremely rough. He has (130) officers under his command who work in ten day shifts in difficult to reach places and five day shifts in others. His greatest needs are reliable communications and 1,000,000 candle power lights. The Colonel said that the terrain is too rough for mechanized transportation.

12 Aug: The EA and Maritime Advisor (MA) conducted an assessment of one of the U.S. donated 82 foot patrol boats assigned to the Georgia Coast Guard (GCG) base in Batumi. The purpose of the assessment was to identify specific material discrepancies for use in developing a statement of work for the upcoming dry-dock reconditioning.

13 Aug: The EA and MA met with Commander Vepkhvia Bibileishvili, GCG Head of Resources Management for the GCG in Poti.

Commander Bibileishvili said that a closed circuit television (CCTV) security system for the base would significantly improve physical security. The GCG currently uses 70 persons to patrol the base perimeter on foot. Implementation of a CCTV security system would not only improve security and preserve USG investment, it would also significantly reduce GCG operating costs by permitting the reassignment of approximately 60 of these people to other duties.

The EA and MA also discussed plans for the renovation of the vessel repair facility as well as the need for a revised management structure for maintenance. Commander Bibileishvili indicated that the GCG would be conducting a reorganization study in September and that he would eventually like to expand the number of his current technical maintenance staff from (14) persons to (41). The MA is scheduled to meet with him during the first week of September to

discuss staffing recommendations and the potential for developing a naval engineering/vessel support competency similar to that of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

Note: The additional 27 man-years needed for increases in maintenance staff would be more than compensated by man-year saved by installation of the CCTV security system.

15 - 19 Aug: David Froman (EUR/ACE) visited Georgia and met with the EXBS team to discuss current and upcoming projects. EXBS sponsored Mr. Froman's visit and assisted the country team by scheduling Mr. Froman's meetings and site visits.

18 Aug: Mr. Froman; John Ryan, GBSLE; and the EXBS EA, MA and Program Coordinator (PC) met with Major General Zaza Gogava, Deputy QProgram Coordinator (PC) met with Major General Zaza Gogava, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs (MOIA) and Head of Border Police .

General Gogava voiced his intent to set-up both short and long-term plans for the Border Police, which would be provided to U.S. Embassy personnel when finalized. No U.S. participation in the planning process was requested.

General Gogava stated that Border Police are funding the construction of seven buildings in individual sectors of the green border with Turkey, and two in sectors of the green border with Russia. Completion is expected by the spring of 2010. The General also said that while the greatest need of the BP continues to be dependable communications, he also needs a total of 15 new sector buildings on the border with Azerbaijan that are similar to, but not identical, to those provided by GBSLE. Eight are needed in the Akhaltsikhe area and seven in the Dedoplistskaro area.

The General mentioned that an agreement has been made with the Turkish government to fix border markers along their common border. Additional negotiations are in process for the repair of markers along 65 percent of the borders with Armenia and Azerbaijan. Repairs to boundary markers along approximately 30 percent of the border with Russia are needed.

General Gogava indicated that border violations along the Turkish border commonly involve African and Sri Lankan citizens attempting to transit through Georgia to Europe. The General promised to provide a statistical listing of Border Police enforcement actions along the green borders.

According to the General, 30 Border Police recruits are currently in basic training at the MOIA Police Academy. He expects a total of (200) will be trained this year and hopes to have a greater number than that graduate next year. He also mentioned that Polish instructors are conducting training for BP investigators at the Police Academy in Tbilisi and in Poland.

The General voiced his unqualified support of a potential multi-national executive observation program with his counterparts from Turkey and Armenia that would center on U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) operations and training. He said that if something such as this could be arranged, a corollary benefit would be the certain improvement of working relationships with his neighbors.

Embassy Note: This would be particularly important to the Border Police now as they are actively redefining their operations and training. A viable itinerary might include discussions with high level USBP managers in Washington on inter-agency and international cooperation as well as management and personnel issues; viewing a USBP training facility; and exposure to USBP operations including mobile checkpoints.

18 Aug: The EA, MA and PC met with Captain Ramaz Papidze, Head of Policy for GCG. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming reorganization study and the potential for implementing a naval engineering competency within the GCG. The MA provided Captain Papidze with a recommended organization structure reflecting the implementation of the ship repair facility and a reporting chain for managing vessel maintenance. Captain Papidze expressed interest in the proposed changes and said that he would discuss the suggestions with his chain of command. Captain Papidze also indicated that a

major goal for the reorganization study is to identify ways to align more closely with NATO standards while assessing the viability of the integration of the Navy with the GCG.

25 Aug: The EA and PC attended the final day of a workshop that included representatives from Austria, Sweden and Poland, and was sponsored by the German Export Control Agency BAFA. The workshop was the latest in a series of meetings to assist Georgia in drafting a revised export control law. The final version is expected to be completed by the end of the year with a projected in-force date of February 2010.

21 - 26 Aug: In response to multiple inquiries, the MA provided significant assistance to the country team in researching and obtaining information from the GCG relating to recent vessel seizures off the coast of Abkhazia, and in explaining USCG policy and procedures under similar operational scenarios. The seizures were:

The Turkish tanker ship BUKET on August 15. The BUKET was en route to Sukhumi carrying 2500 tons of petrol and 700 tons of diesel fuel. The vessel was seized for multiple past illegal entries to Abkhazia in addition to this attempt.

The Cambodian cargo ship AFRO STAR, on August 18, for illegally transiting through Abkhazia and smuggling 1200 tons of scrap metal from the port of Sukhumi.

1B. TRAINING CONDUCTED DURING REPORTING PERIOD:

None

1C. EQUIPMENT DELIVERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

None

1D. IMMINENT TRAINING OR EQUIPMENT STATUS UPDATE:

--UPCOMING TRAINING:

1) October 5 - 7:

Tracker system administration training and installation of software.

2) October 5 - 9:

USCG Incident Command Systems 300

Training will be delivered as an advanced follow-on to the Incident Command Systems 200 course and the same participants will attend from the Coast Guard, Patrol Police, and Emergency Management Service.

3) October(Exact date TBD)

Commanding Officer/Executive Officer Training

Two GCG officers will attend six weeks of intensive USCG command officer training in the U.S. The training will consist of both classroom and practical instruction and will be identical to the CO/XO training completed on July 18.

4) November (Exact date TBD)

Commodity Identification Training

5) November - December (Exact date TBD)

Controlled Deliveries / Undercover Operations

Training will be conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and will include participants from the MOIA Special Operations Center, Special Operations Department, and Anti-terrorist unit.

--EQUIPMENT STATUS:

--PENDING PROCUREMENT OR DISTRIBUTION:

(4)Radioactive Source Containers - NRSS	TBD	
(1000)Utility Belts and Equipment - BP (NSOI)		TBD
(60) Thermal Imaging Cameras - BP (NSOI, EXBS)	TBD	
Spare Parts, equipment - GCG	\$70,000	

IE. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN EXPORT CONTROLS,  
NON-PROLIFERATION OR RELATED BORDER SECURITY:

None

III. RED FLAG ISSUES:

None

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